

Day 20

I'm not on social media. It's not that I'm opposed to it, it's well - I'm just not that interesting.

But there are people on social media who have found their niche to be interesting and be influencers. People who know how to work this platform can make a career of it.

This platform for influencers may be new, but the concept is not. Today in Colossians we learn about who and who not to trust when it comes to the people around us who influence our faith.

Paul has spent a lot of time in the epistle expanding on our foundation and the benefits that we experience when we are dependent in the gospel. But now he takes a time for some instruction on how we keep from clouding the message of Christ with things that are of this world.

Like in our culture, a lot of different philosophies about the faith were infiltrating the church. Paul wanted to warn us that they are distractions to the message of the gospel.

The first example that Colossians gives us is to beware of any influence that bases our salvation on our own behavior. The laws and tradition in the Bible were always pointing to Christ, they were given to show us we were in need, but they are powerless to save us.

We know the law of Georgia says we cannot steal. But the law can't keep us from stealing if we want to. Its powerless to make us obey and its powerless to call us not guilty when we do steal. It is what we are judged against, that its only power.

When we are saved, we are given the Holy Spirit. The Spirit doesn't lead us to self-help, it leads us to transformation. In other words, God doesn't want us to rely on how good we think we are; He wants us to rely on how great He His mercy is in Christ.

The second example given in this text is one where we might seek an external supernatural experience over the internal supernatural power of Christ.

We see this a lot in our culture. There are a lot of false teachers who say they have seen angels or have been given visions about the future. The twist on this kind of false teachers is that for all the spirituality they are seeking the writer says, "they are creating idle notions from an unspiritual mind." In other words, they are making it up.

So, we have some warnings, but we also have a beautiful picture of how we are connected to Christ. It is the image of Him being the head and us being His body. This is an incredible concept if we can grasp it.

This picture gives us intense purpose. We can reach for this image whenever another influence comes up against us. There is nothing to add the completeness of Christ and His body.

We have access to that image again in *Ephesians 1: 22 - 23*.

And God placed all things under his (Jesus) feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Our dependence on this source will keep us from being influenced by things that are meant to distract us and will make us an influence of this truth to others.